

Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 005102

R 101345Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7692

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

COMSEVENTHFLT

COMIDEASTFOR

CTF SEVEN FIVE

CTF SEVEN FIVE PT ONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 1307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, US, KE

SUBJECT: MOMBASA PORT VISIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE

REF (A) STATE 001237 (DTG 022355Z JAN 76) (B) COMSEVENTHFLT

081536Z FEB 76 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES COMSEVENTHFLT ALERTNESS IN ANTICIPATING POSSIBLE UNWANTED SPECULATION CONCERNING MOMBASA VISIT OF FOUR NAVY SHIPS CLOSE ON HEELS OF SOMALIA/DJIBOUTI TENSIONS. WE WERE IN PROCESS OF DRAWING UP OUR OWN PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WHEN REF B (BEING REPEATED STATE, ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISCIO) ARRIVED.

2. UPON CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE BELIEVE THAT ISSUANCE OF PRESS RELEASE IN ADVANCE OF SHIPS' ARRIVAL WOULD TEND TO INVITE RATHER THAN DAMPEN SPECULATIVE ATTENTION, GIVEN THE FACT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN OUR
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PRACTICE TO PUBLICIZE SUCH VISITS IN PAST. HOWEVER, NEWSMEN ARE USUALLY PRESENT WHEN CO'S MAKE PROTOCOL

CALLS ON PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER AND MAYOR IN MOMBASA, AND NEWSPAPER OR RADIO COVERAGE SOMETIMES ENSUES. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO DISTRIBUTE STATEMENT TO LOCAL NEWSMEN DURING PROTOCOL CALLS(PROBABLY 17 FEB), WHICH DRAWS ON LANGUAGE SUGGESTED REF B AS FOLLOWS:
"TWO FRIGATES FROM THE U.S. PACIFIC FLEET, USS GRAY AND USS HEPBURN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE OILER USNS PASSUMPSIC, HAVE ARRIVED IN MOMBASA FOR A ROUTINE VISIT. ANOTHER FRIGATE, USS GARCIA, HAS ALSO ARRIVED ON A ROUTINE VISIT FROM THE U.S. NAVY MIDDLE EAST FORCE. THESE VISITS WERE ARRANGED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO PROVIDE REST AND RELAXATION FOR THE SHIPS CREW."

3. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF PRESS STATEMENT AND CONTINGENCY Q AND A CONTAINED REF B IF PRESS INTEREST IN MOMBASA VISIT ARISES OUTSIDE KENYA. HOWEVER, WE PREFER THAT BOTH STATEMENT AND Q AND A BE RELEASED ONLY ON "IF ASKED" BASIS. WE PLAN TO USE SHORTER STATEMENT CONTAINED PARA 2 ABOVE IF WE RECEIVE PRESS INQUIRIES LOCALLY BEFORE ARRIVAL OF SHIPS. WE WILL ALSO DRAW UPON CONTINGENCY Q AND A INCLUDING DENIAL OF ANY CONNECTION WITH SOMALIA/DJIBOUTI SITUATION. MARSHALL

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